

HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF SENEGAL Second Edition

by
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(q.v.) agricultural colonization project. Today it contains several large villages, but no major towns.

- X -

XALIFA (KALIFA, KHALIFA). Wolof/Pulaar title, adapted from the Arabic, for the head of a community of Muslim believers. In Wolof usage, it generally applies to the head of a Sufi (q.v.) brotherhood, or one of its branch lodges.

- Z -

ZIGUINCHOR. Capital of the Casamance (q.v.) region, located on the south side of the Casamance River about 40 miles from its mouth on the Atlantic coast. The city has a commercial history dating to at least the fifteenth century, having originated as the port of trade for the kingdom of Kasa (q.v.), with which the Portuguese (q.v.) traded. It is connected by the trans-Gambian highway with Dakar (q.v.), but the ferry across the Gambia River and the two Gambian border crossings make it a long trip. Geographic isolation has been a major factor in the city's political and economic evolution. In 1982, 1983 and 1990, the city was the scene of clashes between government forces and Casamance separatists. Although located in the area with the richest agricultural potential, and offering good port potential, it has remained a relatively small provincial capital. The permanent population in 1990 was approximately 80,000, although in the dry season there is a large influx of rural migrants.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compared with other sub-Saharan African countries, Senegal has an abundant and diverse scholarly literature, including written and oral accounts. Therefore, the following list is presented as an introduction to the printed literature on Senegal and is by no means exhaustive. Most written works on Senegal are in French and English, and these languages predominate in the bibliography. Yet, there is also a sizable Arabic corpus as well as works in other European languages. In addition, there is a growing body of literature in the main indigenous Senegalese languages, including Wolof, Serer, Pulaar, Soninke and Mandinka.

The earliest written documents concerned with Senegal date from approximately the tenth century A.D., and consist primarily of travellers' accounts in Arabic. Muslim traders and voyagers from North Africa crossed the Sahara Desert into the Western Sudan and Senegambia and left written descriptions of the region. After the mid-fifteenth century, Europeans sailed along the West African coast and up the Senegal River. Portuguese, Dutch, English and French trading posts on the coasts and along the river in the sixteenth through the early nineteenth centuries offer four centuries of correspondence and reports. The eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were a period of intense geographical interest, especially throughout the Senegal River valley and along the Atlantic coast. Owing to its coastal and desert-side location, Senegal is in the comparatively unique position of having first-hand accounts in both Arabic and European languages for the precolonial era.

During the colonial period in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, circumstances fostered a scholarly focus on Senegal. As the cornerstone of the Federation of French West Africa, Senegal

attracted early efforts at colonial economic development and the resultant literature. Dakar, the federation capital, was also the site of the archives, research institutions (e.g., IFAN, the medical-research laboratories, and later ORSTOM) and the university. The scholar-administrators of the colonial era—Faidherbe, Gaden, Delafosse, Hardy, Marty, Culturu, Delavignette, Brunshwig, Deschamps, Mauny and Boutillier—often remain the only or most frequently used sources.

Prior to independence in 1960, Senegalese scholars emerged in a variety of disciplines, offering quite different perspectives from those of colonial commentators. Historian Cheikh Anta Diop's theory of the African origin of Egyptian and much of European civilization challenged the entire curriculum of European history. Leopold Senghor's philosophies of *négritude* and African socialism were revolutionary ideologies in the 1930s and 1940s. Early novels by Ousmane Socé, Abdoulaye Dadi and Cheikh Hamidou Kane also raised awareness of the impact of colonialism, penetrating into the dilemmas of individual lives under colonial rule. Many of the early Senegalese authors were "renaissance men," trained in one field but using their general education to analyze and explore others. Thus Senghor moved from romantic poetry into politics and diplomacy; Abdoulaye Ly from colonial commercial history into economic and political development. Economist Mamadou Dia wrote in his field and tried to apply it as prime minister. Veterinarian Birago Diop is best known for his short stories based on collections of oral traditions, and pharmacist Majhemout Diop has become one of Senegal's foremost Marxist theoreticians. Geographer Assane Seck moved into politics and economic development, and historian Mokhtar Mbaw focused on education and international administration. Ousmane Sembene essentially educated himself to become Senegal's most renowned writer and filmmaker.

The younger generation of Senegalese scholars tend to stay in a single discipline and to cover smaller topics in greater depth. Among those who figure in the bibliography are historians Boubacar Barry, Abdoulaye Bathily, Mamadou Diouf and Oumar

Kane; sociologists Abdoulaye Bara Diop, Fatou Sow, Yaya Wane and Ousmane Silla. Bakary Traoré, Mamadou Lo, Alioune Diop, Mamadou Diallo and Mamadou Diarra have joined the list of publishing political theorists, whereas economists Doudou Thiam and Babacar Ba managed to combine careers as Ministers with scholarly publication.

Another important trend in indigenous scholarship since independence has been the reemergence of an Islamic literary tradition. Scholars like Amar Samb, Cheikh Tidiane Sy and Rawane Mbaye, who have combined a traditional Islamic education with French training, are publishing religious, religious historical and educational works in Arabic and/or French for a flourishing market. They follow in the tradition of such colonial-era Arabists as Shaikh Musa Kamara and Siré Abbas Sow.

Oral history has always been important in Senegal and, like the Islamic tradition, is experiencing a renaissance. *Griots* and nobles, as well as historians publish Wolof, Serer and Pulaar oral traditions translated into French and English and, increasingly, in their primary languages. This follows the practice of their colonial-era predecessors, Yoro Diao (Jaw), Ahmadu Wade, Siré Abbas Sow and Saikh Musa Kamara.

Independence also permitted the diversification of scholarship by non-Senegalese scholars. Francophone Marxists, such as Jean Suret-Canale, Samir Amin and Jean Copans, found expression alongside those more philosophically attuned to the colonial tradition and those with a new focus on the practical problems of development. British scholars, and later a host of Americans, began to bring knowledge of Senegal to the English-speaking world and new methodological and theoretical approaches to the subject. For the convenience of English-speaking readers, the list of English-language works is as complete as possible, including, for example, many unpublished dissertations of merit. Dutch, Belgian, German and Russian scholars have also taken an interest in Senegal.

Perhaps the greatest gap in the literature on Senegal is in the area of general and reference works. No comprehensive history of

Senegal has been published since Cultru's 1910 work, which covers only up to 1870. Philip Curtin's monumental *Economic Change in Precolonial Africa* (1975) is the most ambitious of recent works, but focuses closely on economics and ends with the 1840s. Reference works on Senegal are also minimal, although this situation is changing. The *Atlas National du Sénégal* and the *Area Handbook for Senegal* are currently the most useful reference works devoted exclusively to Senegal. General textbooks on Africa, many of which include good chapters on Senegal, are not included in the present bibliography.

The bibliography, designed to serve as an introduction to the more detailed literature on Senegal, is organized into broad subject headings. Each work is listed only once, even though it may be relevant to a number of categories. The number of subheadings has been kept relatively small to avoid confusion.

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